

# SOUTH MANCHESTER

Newsletter for February 24



u3a South Manchester website [u3asites.org.uk/south-manchester](https://u3asites.org.uk/south-manchester)  
u3a South Manchester Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165/?ref=bookmarks>

Registered Charity Number 1168597

*FEBRUARY*



Walking Group 1 on a glorious day in November - see page 9

March 24 Newsletter items to [editor.smu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.smu3anews@gmail.com)

**NO LATER than Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE of the SMu3a

### Chair and External Ambassador

Beryl Cowen [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Secretary

Andrew Bradbury [REDACTED]  
[smu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.secretary@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Ian Burn [REDACTED]  
[smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com)

### Membership secretary

Joanie Yoffe [REDACTED]  
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### Asst membership secretary

Pat Ford [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Groups Co-ordinator/venues

Diane Ward [REDACTED]  
[smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com)

### Publicity/equipment

Wena Stevenson [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Committee member

Helen Chambers [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### SUPPORT – (non-committee)

**Speaker secretary** – Jeff Wilner [REDACTED]

**'Meeters & Greeters' Co-ordinator** – Barbara Aston – [REDACTED]

**Newsletter Team** – Jill Evans – [editor.smu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.smu3anews@gmail.com)

Trish Ramsden [REDACTED]

[Helen Chambers](#) (proof reader)

**Web Editor** – Ian Burn [REDACTED]

**Facebook** – Rosemary Mallace – [REDACTED]

**Quiz Master** – Tom Grimshaw [REDACTED]

**Producing the Monthly Diary Sheet** - Liz Thornhill

**Catering** – Shirley Shaw

If you have any information about members' special birthdays, anniversaries, illness, bereavements, etc. please notify Kath Thompson [REDACTED]

**Tradesperson book** – Is available at general meetings.  
It will only be of value if members use it, so please do.

### General Meeting – at Didsbury Baptist Church\*

Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

**Manchester Rocks by Susan H Treagus**

*see page 6*

\* Subs for General Meetings have returned to £1.

**Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church** - Please note that there is **no parking** at the church.

(Blue Badge holders could use double yellow lines)



## February Newsletter

Dear u3a members,

Hello again after the break.

I am writing this on a u3a holiday in beautiful Somerset in Weston super Mare. The sun is shining and sea sparkling. Perfect, as I love the sea and the fresh crisp salty air. The company is fun and friendly with dancing every night and lovely scenery as we visit various places. If you have never seen The Cheddar Gorge you have missed a Wonder

A new year means a fresh start and after the break u3a groups are now getting back into business with our events in full swing and new interests started. It is an exciting time as we learn and laugh together.

We have great talks lined up for this year's monthly meetings and look forward to welcoming you to them. Remember you are important, valued. You all have something to contribute. If you have a story to tell we would love to hear it. Most of you have had some inspiring adventures and experiences so please see me or a committee member and we can put you on the speakers' list. Your lives have touched many. That is your value.

Very soon we will be having our AGM and committee members have to resign. We need new people to join the committee. Please think about this and see Andrew our secretary if you would like to be on the committee. South Manchester u3a needs you!

Enjoy this month

Beryl

Dear Editor

I enjoyed reading Trish Ramsden's very informative article about the Town Hall organ in the last issue. It prompted a couple of memories from many years ago when I played in the Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra.

One concert we gave in the Great Hall included the Organ Symphony by Camille Saint-Saëns. The organist has to wait patiently during the first three movements, then opens the fourth movement with a thunderous chord that seems to use the loudest possible settings of the organ stops. Even the orchestra members who knew what was coming almost jumped out of our seats, and if there were any sleeping members of the audience they would have woken with a shock.

On another occasion, we reached the very quietest moments of Holst's The Planets at exactly 9pm when the Town Hall clock interrupted with its nine solemn strokes.

Happy days!

Helen Nicolson

*A very interesting article – thanks Trish - more articles – and comments - welcome – ed.*

## **NORTH WEST AND NATIONAL NEWS**

**National** - Third Age Trust national website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) for latest news of u3a around the country and courses/events on offer. The link for the **national email newsletter for January** is below:

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-national-newsletter-january-2023?e=c26bc18bd4>

**North West Region u3a** website - [www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west) - for the latest information and Newsletter.

## **SMu3a News**

### ***SMu3a welcomes the following 12 new members:***

Liz Salter      Florence Talks      Ann Gibson      Gwynn Owen  
Adrian Hammond      Sarah Evans      Margo Singer      Trevor Suther  
Aileen Somerset      Karen and Andy Smith      Mary Heaney

### **Bookstall news**

Just before Christmas we were able to donate £33 to the Chorlton and Didsbury foodbank.

Our current charity is Manchester Mind, an independent charity providing mental health support for over 6,500 people per year across the whole city region. Please continue to buy a book for a worthy cause.

Janet Robertson

### **South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers**

*All meetings take place at Didsbury Baptist Church*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2pm** – “Manchester Rocks – A look at the variety of rocks in Manchester’s landmark buildings” by Susan H Treagus

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2pm** – “The Girl from Kyiv” by Sue Stern

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 2pm** – “How Manchester Led the Fight Against Breast Cancer” by Emeritus Professor Anthony Howell

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2pm** – “The Life and Times of Casanova” by Jim Williams

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2pm** – “From Divorce Lawyer to the Duchess of Domestic Noir” by Caroline England

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 2pm** – “Wythenshawe Good Neighbours Scheme” by Helen Davies

An excellent u3a lunch at Hough End on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – many thanks to Russell Ramsden for the collage



South Manchester u3a General Meeting  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2pm  
At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

*“Manchester Rocks – A look at the variety of rocks in Manchester’s landmark buildings”* by Susan H Treagus



The bedrock underlying south and central Manchester, a red sandstone, is rarely seen above ground, except in building materials. This talk explores the variety of other rocks from Britain and abroad, that have been used as building materials in Manchester. We will look at the walls of the Central Library, the Midland Hotel, and other nearby locations, including paving stones under our feet. We can then look higher, at roofing slates used in Manchester, and their other domestic uses. We will discover we have seen rocks of different types and geological ages, from all over Britain, and as far afield as India, without travelling more than a few miles.

Sue is a retired geologist as well as being a member of our u3a. She studied largely at Manchester University and her subsequent career has been Manchester based. She retired from academia in 2003 but still holds an emeritus position in Manchester and is actively researching the structure of North Wales.

## Local news



**West Didsbury Astronomical Society**

Monday Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Our next talk will be **'Lost Meteorites of Antarctica'** presented by **Dr Geoff Evatt**. As usual, it will take place at **Nazarene Theological College**.

**The Didsbury Probus Club** invites you to our following meetings: these are held at Didsbury Baptist Church School Lane. We meet at 10-30am for tea/coffee and biscuits - talks at 11-00am.

1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	The Internet of Things - Nigel Linge
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wakin, the railway king - Geoff Scargill
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Advances in medical science - Bernard Loveday
21 <sup>st</sup> March	How the World was reshaped in 1919 and with what consequences? - David Walmsley
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Sent to Siberia - Terry Callaghan.
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Antarctica - Neil Wilson
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Guided walk around Castlefield. Looking at the three major events – The Romans AD 79, the first Industrial Canal 1791, the first Intercity Railway for general freight and passengers 1830
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Amazing Women Pilots - Aimee Johnson through to the women who delivered planes in WW II - Victor Crawford.
6 <sup>th</sup> June	3D Printing - is this of any use? - Dr Ernie Hill



## Opera at Menorah



Opera appreciation with Diana Rosenthal

*All events are on Thursdays at 1.30pm*

**Special Offer! Season ticket £45 for all 6 sessions.**

For more information and to book in advance email: [office@menorah.org.uk](mailto:office@menorah.org.uk)

- or pay £10 for each session at the door using card payment

### Programme:

- 4 January - *La Forza del Destino* (Verdi)
- 1 February - *The Snow Queen* (Hans Abrahamsen)
- 4 April - *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* (Richard Strauss)
- 2 May - *Pelleas et Melisande* (Debussy)
- 6 June - *Les Contes d'Hoffman* (Offenbach)
- 11 July - *Don Giovanni* (Mozart)

# TRUE OR FALSE



What a strange year **2023** has been.

Here's an extract from the **Have I Got News For You: The Quiz of 2023** book to test how much you have been paying attention.

Here are 10 statements linked to 2023 but are they **TRUE** or **FALSE** ?

1. In May, a teacher in Kentucky, USA, was suspended after allowing a student to dress up as a KKK grand wizard as part of a history project.
2. After being cleared of fault over a 2016 ski crash on March 30<sup>th</sup>, actor Gwyneth Paltrow was awarded just \$1.
3. In August, Edinburgh Zoo admitted that a koala bear escaped in 2015 and was on the loose for seven months before being captured on a farm sixteen miles away.
4. In January, an original Mr Blobby costume listed on eBay for £39 received a winning bid of £62 000 after a fierce bidding war.
5. In May, Plymouth City Council cut down a large number of trees to stop people having public sex in the area.
6. Blackpool Council imposed a five day ban on stag and hen dos in June following several cases of intoxicated donkey riding.
7. In August, a branch of DFS in Wolverhampton issued a lifetime ban to a man who had been sleeping in the store every night for seven months.
8. The BBC received nine complaints about an episode of *Gardeners' World* in February because Monty Don had grown a beard over the winter.
9. In April, Secret Service agents apprehended a toddler who had crawled through the security fence that surrounds the White House.
10. During a return of *The Crystal Maze* in August, eagle-eyed viewers spotted that a contestant had cheated by storing home-made gold tickets inside his jumpsuit in order to win the grand prize.

**Weekend Photo subjects for February:**

02/02. Street signs	09/02. Cloud formations
16/02. Be my valentine	23/02. Still life

TRUE OR FALSE Answers

1. T	2. T	3. T	4. F
5. T	6. F	7. F	8. F
9. T	10. F		

## **GROUP NEWS – see group A-Z page for contact details**



### **Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

#### **Piccadilly to Failsworth**

*See picture on front page*

Our walk today was in glorious sunshine as you can see from the photograph. Being the end of November, it was cold but we were all wrapped up well. Twenty of us met at Piccadilly Station then headed off towards Piccadilly Basin where we joined the Rochdale canal.

We followed the canal towpath through the centre of Manchester and out through Ancoats and Newton Heath eventually reaching Failsworth. The bright sunshine meant that the reflections on the still waters of the canal were beautiful when the geese weren't swimming around.

Upon reaching Failsworth, we had lunch at the Millgate pub. The food and the service were first class and we all enjoyed catching up over a hot meal. That's our last walk of 2023. We will be taking a well-earned rest in December to enjoy the festivities. May our 2024 walks be as enjoyable as this year's.



### **Walking for Health Group 2 Walk Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

#### **East Didsbury to Didsbury via River Mersey**

A 3-mile walk from East Didsbury to Didsbury via river Mersey and Stenner Woods. Good paths and tracks, no steps, no stiles, but could be muddy in parts. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet outside the Parrs Wood cinema at 11.00. Lunch available at Ye Olde Cock Inn pub. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on [7582 526440](tel:07582526440) or [0161 312 3002](tel:01613123002).

### **Walking for Health Group 1 Walk Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

#### **Fallowfield to Heaton Chapel**

A 2.7-mile walk following the Fallowfield Loop and Highfield Country Park. Mostly good paved paths except for one part which may be muddy. No steps, no stiles and level going. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at the Wilmslow Road entrance to Sainsbury's superstore in Fallowfield (café and toilets available) at 10:45am. Lunch available at the George and Dragon in Heaton Chapel. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on [\[REDACTED\]](tel:01613123002).

### ART APPRECIATION GROUP

32 members of the Art Appreciation group enjoyed a talk by the historian Michael Ohajuru on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. Michael, who regularly gives talks at many of the country's most important galleries such as the Tate and the National Gallery, talked about Casta paintings. These are a series of 17<sup>th</sup> century Mexican paintings which narrowly avoided being thrown out by Leicester Museum and Art Gallery as being of little value, but which carried a fascinating but dark theme, that of categorising the ethnic status of the population between white, black and indigenous Indians. They were rescued by one of the curators and formed the basis of an exhibition late last year.

The February meeting of Art Appreciation will have a talk by Ross Evans of Heaton Moor u3a on Russian art.



The photography group has been renamed **Creative Photography**. See above for its latest colourful activity – Fun with Photographs.

**The Creative Photography** group is making a "wall of walls"! Group leader Ann Howarth challenged group members to photograph interesting walls, some of which can be seen above. These pictures are being combined into a collage which can be printed off and used as a wall decoration. It's a great co-operative effort illustrating just one of the creative ways in which photography can be used. And Ann has lots of other ideas up her sleeve! If you'd like to join the group and have fun with photography, please contact Diane Ward in the first instance on [smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

On Leap Day we'll be taking the joy of singing to Morris Feinmann (BELONG) M20 2UW at 2pm on Thursday 29th February.

On Wednesday 27th March at 2pm we will be at Buccleuch Lodge

On Monday 8th April we'll return to BELONG.

Please call me if you simply enjoy singing well-known songs in unison - without rehearsal – to amuse, entertain and bring joy to others. Mike Evans [REDACTED]

It is hoped to start two new conversation groups later this year - if you'd like to chat in either **SPANISH OR GERMAN**, please let Diane Ward know on [smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com) and we will keep you informed. Neither group will be suitable for absolute beginners as there will be no teaching element.

## SMu3a Groups A – Z - for your information

Check Group News and This Month's Diary and *contact the group leader before attending.*

**ANGLO SAXON AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY** – usually first Monday of the month 10.30 am via Zoom. New members please ring before attending. **Beryl:** [REDACTED]

**ART APPRECIATION** – Art Appreciation and Looking at Art groups hold a joint meeting on one Wednesday each month. Please check the Diary sheet for the date. A wide variety of artistic topics is discussed.

. **Diane** [REDACTED]

**BIRD WATCHING** – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 1-3. No experience necessary **Rita Berriman** [REDACTED]

**BOARD GAMES GROUP** – the second Friday of the month 2 – 4.  
**Christine Salamone** [REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 1** – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10.30am, ring before attending. **Meg:** [REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 2** – usually 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs, 1.30pm Didsbury Library (see diary for changes)  
**Tom** [REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 3** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of the month, 1.30 pm. New members please contact  
**Johanna Keane** [REDACTED]

**BRIDGE** – for established players of ACOL Bridge. The Friday u3a group meets fortnightly, at The Chapel of Nazarene College, between 10.00 am & 12 noon (See Diary).

Please contact **Liz Thornhill** by email @ [REDACTED]

**BRIDGE FOR IMPROVERS & BEGINNERS** -You don't need a bridge partner and more experienced bridge players are more than welcome to join us. Usually **fortnightly on** Mondays 1.30-3.30 (See Diary) Lower Hall at Emmanuel Parish Centre, Barlow Moor Road. **Hilary Poole** [REDACTED]

**CHESS GROUP** starting January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am at the Parsonage, Didsbury. Thereafter the last Thursday of each month. **Rosemary Mallace** [REDACTED]

**CINEMA** – Last Friday of the month, at HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place. MEET in the downstairs bar from 12.15. *What's On:* E-mailed the Tuesday before we meet. **Russell:** [REDACTED]

**CIRCUS SKILLS** - this group will meet at St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway every second Thursday from 2 till 3.30pm. **Joanie Yoffe** on [smu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:smu3amembership@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

**COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP**– for those who enjoy singing well-known songs in unison (no rehearsal time) to residents in Residential Homes.(Group news/diary for details) **Mike** [REDACTED]

**CRAFT** – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month, 1.30 pm, Old Rectory, Emmanuel Church We use a variety of different techniques to produce many pieces of jewellery, flowers, paintings, cards, cross stitch etc. (and board games). **Karen:** [REDACTED] / **Margaret:** [REDACTED]

**CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY** - will meet at 10.30am at Didsbury Parsonage, every second Monday of the month. Leader: Ann Howarth. contact: [smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com).

**CREATIVE WRITING** – Usually the last Friday, monthly 10.30am, at Withington Library. New members welcome. **Diana:** [REDACTED]

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1.30pm in The Old Cock, Didsbury to discuss /share opinions about items in the news **Adrienne Simpson** – [REDACTED]

**DRAMATIC READERS** – held on a Friday ftf and by zoom, 3.15pm **Beryl:** [REDACTED]

**EGYPTOLOGY GROUP** – at Didsbury Parsonage on the third Thursday of every month at 2.30 pm. **Kathryn Fyfe** [REDACTED]

**FRENCH** – the third Tuesday of the month 2 - 3pm at Pizza Express, West Didsbury. New members are welcome at all levels of spoken French. Jean Thompson [REDACTED]

**GETTING BY IN WELSH** – usually 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 10.30 am East Didsbury Methodist Church on Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. (see Diary for changes) Beryl: [REDACTED] / Wena: [REDACTED]

**HOLIDAY GROUP** – Ad hoc meetings will be listed on Diary, usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 11.00am St Nicholas Hall, Burnage. Anne: [REDACTED]

**ITALIAN GROUP** - We are a small friendly group of Italian learners with a range of abilities. We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday mornings at 10.30am to practice speaking and to improve our Italian by helping each other. Newcomers are very welcome. [REDACTED]

**ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS** – for those who have **no or minimal Italian** but want to learn. 10.30 – 12.00 on the second and fourth Friday of the month at St. Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, M20 1HE. Contact **Andrew** [smu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.secretary@gmail.com) [REDACTED]

**KEEP FIT** – Every Friday morning, 11.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Burnage. Anne: [REDACTED]

**LOCAL INTEREST VISITS** – visits advertised / listed in Group News and Diary. Jill [REDACTED]

**LUNCH CLUB** - If interested, please contact group leader **John Olbrich** - [REDACTED]

**OPERATIC AND VOCAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY (OVAS)**. Meets from 3.30 - 5.45 on the last Wednesday of every month. Len Evans: [REDACTED]

**PHILOSOPHY** - meets third Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm, Withington Library. Leader **Sandra Grant** [REDACTED]

**PLAYREADING** - the third Tuesday afternoon of the month at Withington Library at 1.30. Numbers are limited but if you would like to register an interest, please contact the group leader: Helen [REDACTED]

**POETRY APPRECIATION** – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 11.00 am for an hour and a half to discuss poems on a chosen theme. The group is full at the moment – if interested contact **Lynne Taylor** [REDACTED]

**PSYCHOLOGY** – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month via zoom. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month f2f, but please contact the Group Leader for venue details and check diary. Beryl: [REDACTED]

**SINGING FOR FUN** – 2<sup>nd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.00pm at Baptist Church School Lane / Beaver Road Didsbury Beryl: [REDACTED]

**TABLE TENNIS / BADMINTON** - weekly Tuesday from 10.00-12.00 at The Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, M14 6HE. June: [REDACTED]

**TAI CHI** – meets every Tuesday, 1-2pm in the Lower Hall, Parish Offices, Emmanuel Church, Barlow Moor Rd, Peggy [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Contact via email preferred.

**UKULELE** - every Thursday 10:00 – 11:15 at Upper Hall, Emmanuel Parish Centre, behind the Church. (*Lift available*). New members please contact Group Leader. Gerard: [REDACTED]

**WALKING FOR HEALTH 1** – last Tuesday of the month. See group news for details. *For insurance reasons the walk is only available to u3a members.* Ian and Shirley [REDACTED]

**WALKING FOR HEALTH 2** – second Wednesday of the month. See group news for details. *For insurance reasons the walk is only available to u3a members.* Anne [REDACTED]

## Notice of AGM and Nomination Form for the Committee 2024

Notice is given that the AGM of South Manchester u3a will be held on **Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 2.00pm at Didsbury Baptist Church.**

The agenda and papers are attached below.

In the meantime, **NOMINATIONS** are invited *in writing* for a maximum of 12 members of the Committee. (The acceptance of the nominee is also required.)

Under our Constitution all Committee Members stand down at an AGM. The process for voting in a new Committee requires each person willing to stand, both current Committee Members and others, to be nominated from within the membership (*paid up members only*).

At the first Committee meeting after the AGM the officer posts are decided by the Committee.

If, for any vacancy, no nominations have been received, then nominations may be accepted at the AGM. Any vacancies not filled by nomination/election will be filled by the Committee in accordance with our rules.

Paid up members may **nominate by post** using the form below, or your own paper if it contains all the information we need, or **by email** stating the details – nominee, proposer, seconder – the proposer and seconder will need to send an email confirming their nominee.

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### **SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a COMMITTEE 2024 NOMINATION FORM – for election at the AGM on 5th March 2024 (*paid up members only*)**

NOMINEE.....

PROPOSED BY.....

SECONDED BY.....

SIGNATURE OF ACCEPTANCE BY NOMINEE.....

(or email /postal confirmation by nominee)

DATE.....

Address for postal nominations: Dr A J Bradbury, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Email nominations to [smu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.secretary@gmail.com)

Both to arrive by Friday 23rd February 2024.

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Members may also send a *written motion* for the AGM to the addresses above, also by Friday 23rd February 2024.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A  
5th MARCH 2024, 2.00 PM  
VENUE: DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH,  
BEAVER ROAD, DIDSBURY**

**A G E N D A**

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2023 (see below).
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2023.
3. Report from the Chair.
4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.
5. To authorise the appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2024.
6. Vote on resolutions to amend the Constitution (see notes below)
  - Resolution a) To increase the maximum length of service of committee members from six to nine years.
  - Resolution b) To increase the length of time an Officer can serve in one or more Officer roles to six years.
7. The election of members of the Committee.
8. Any other business notified to the Chair/Secretary by Friday 23rd February 2024.
9. Close of AGM.

## **Notes on proposed changes to Constitution.**

The Committee has reviewed the relevant part of the Constitution regarding length of service of committee members and Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). Firstly, as it is often difficult to find committee members it was felt that increasing the maximum term of office to nine years would assist in continuity in the running of the u3a. Of course, nobody would be forced to stay on the committee any longer than they wished!

Secondly, under the present Constitution, the Treasurer can remain in post for six years while other Officers can only serve for three years but can then move to another Officer post. It was felt that this distinction is unnecessary and leads to unnecessary role changes, particularly if an Officer is willing to continue..

The relevant paragraph currently reads:

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

- vi. Terms of office and limits on periods of service*
  - (a) Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee have a one year term of office and may serve not more than three terms.
  - (b) Officers other than the Treasurer have a one year term of office and may serve not more than three terms in a particular Officer role.
  - (c) The Treasurer has a one year term of office and may serve not more than six terms as Treasurer. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Treasurer serves less than this period and ceases to serve as Treasurer, he could be appointed to another Officer role or could serve as a non-Officer.
  - (d) Subject to the provisions regarding the Treasurer above, no individual may serve more than a maximum of six years in any combination of Officer roles or any combination of non-Officer member and Officer roles.

The proposed amended paragraph reads:

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

- vi. Terms of office and limits on periods of service*
  - (a) Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than nine terms.
  - (b) Officers have a one-year term of office and may not serve more than six years in a particular Officer role.
  - (c) No individual may serve more than six years in a combination of Officer roles.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A**

**7th March 2023 14:00 p.m.**

**Didsbury Baptist Church**

**Minutes**

1. Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and to our new meetings venue.
2. Present – 83 members and 0 proxy votes.
3. Apologies for absence - Andrew Cretney, Ian and Alex Grant, Frances Kelly, Trish Ramsden, Jeff Wilner, Joanie Yoffe.
4. Minutes of the AGM of 1st November 2022 – accepted as correct by the meeting.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM of 1st November 2022 – none.
6. Report from the Chair. This had been published in the last two newsletters. The Chair reported that 2022 had largely been spent rebuilding after Covid and considering how to build further in the future. He thanked people for their hard work, including the welcoming committee, the group leaders, the newsletter team and the committee with special mention of Anne Cooper, who is stepping down, and Ian Burn.
7. Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2022. This had also been published in the last two newsletters. There was a deficit of £782 in 2022 but as some members had already paid for 2023 the true deficit was £1215. Membership numbers are now increasing again but venue costs have increased, in view of which members attending group meetings in hired venues must now pay £2. Group attendance at free venues remains at £1.
8. Authorisation of appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2023 will be carried out by the committee at their next meeting.
9. Election of the committee. Six members had been nominated and were elected unopposed. These were Andrew Bradbury, Ian Burn, Beryl Cowen, Patricia Ford, Diane Ward and Joanie Yoffe.
10. Any other business – none.
11. The meeting closed at 14.13.

## 2024 Membership Subscription Reminder

Please note that 2024 membership subscriptions were payable on **1st January 2024**. We have been asking members to set up a standing order with their bank to make a payment to SMu3a each year on 1st January. Many of you have already done this and your subscriptions have been received. Thank you for that.

For those of you who have not yet paid your membership subscription, I remind you that your payment should be received as soon as possible. There are a number of ways in which you can do this: -

- Set up a standing order with your bank. Attached to this email is a standing order mandate form which you can print off and then fill in. Your completed and signed standing order mandate form should be taken to your bank, either in person or by post. The mandate requests your bank to make a payment of £15 immediately and then a further payment on 1st January 2025 and each subsequent year. This standing order can be cancelled at any time in the future by contacting your bank and requesting them to do so.
- You can go to your bank in person or telephone them and ask them to make a payment of £15 to our account using the following details

Name: South Manchester U3A

Sort code: 40-31-20

Account No: 61483765

- If you bank online, you can make the payment and set up the standing order using the details above.
- You can make a payment by card, cash or cheque at the monthly general meeting. If you don't normally attend the general meeting but you know someone who does, perhaps you can give the money to them to pass on at the meeting.
- If none of the above is possible, you can post a cheque made out to South Manchester u3a to

The Treasurer SMu3a

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Many thanks

Ian Burn

Treasurer

South Manchester u3a



## South Manchester U3A Standing Order Mandate

To (your bank)

Branch Address

Your Account Name

Account Sort Code  Account Number

Pay: HSBC    Sort Code: 40-31-20    Account Number: 61483765

For the credit of: South Manchester U3A Membership

Reference (Your name/Membership No)

The sum of £15.00 immediately and then on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and each subsequent year until further notice

### Your Details

Title  First Name  Surname

Signature  Date

Please send this form directly to your bank (or set it up online)

## February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>1</b> Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b> Craft <b>13:30-15:30</b> Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall</b>	<b>2</b> Italian <b>10:30</b> Getting by in Welsh <b>10:30</b> East Didsbury Methodist Church Keep Fit <b>11:30</b>
<b>5</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom <b>10:30</b> Poetry Appreciation <b>11:00</b> Face-to-face Improvers and Beginners' Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b> Psychology <b>14:00</b> via zoom	<b>6</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> General Meeting <b>14:00-16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church	<b>7</b> Book Group 1. Meg's house <b>10:30.</b> Bird Watching. Note: <b>New Time 11:00 – 12:00</b> If interested, contact Rita: [REDACTED]	<b>8</b> Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b> Book Group 3. <b>13:30</b>	<b>9</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> Italian for Beginners <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Board Games <b>14:00-16:00</b> Parrs Wood Pub
<b>12</b> Photography <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane.	<b>13</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for fun <b>14:00-16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>14</b> Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter	<b>15</b> Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b> Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall</b> Egyptology <b>10:30-12:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane.	<b>16</b> Italian <b>10:30</b> Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Dramatic Readers <b>15:15</b> Face-to-face at [REDACTED] & Zoom
<b>19</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom <b>10:30</b> Improvers and Beginners' Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>	<b>20</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>No Class</b> Playreading <b>13:30</b> Philosophy <b>13:30</b> French Group <b>14:00</b> Pizza Express.	<b>21</b> No Meeting of the Lunch Club this month. Contact: [REDACTED] to be added to the group. Art Appreciation <b>14:00</b> Didsbury Parsonage	<b>22</b> Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b> Current Affairs <b>13:30</b> Old Cock Didsbury Book Group 2. <b>13:30</b> Didsbury Library	<b>23</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> Italian for Beginners <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Creative Writing <b>10:30</b> Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Cinema <b>12:15</b>
<b>26</b> Psychology <b>13:00</b> Face-to-face East Didsbury Methodist Church	<b>27</b> Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for Fun <b>14:00-16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>28</b> OVAS <b>15:30-17:45.</b> [REDACTED]	<b>29</b> Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b> Chess <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Community Singalong <b>14:00</b> Belong M20 2UW Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall</b>	